

January Writing Tips & Soul Care for Writers

DiAnn & Edie

The New Year is birthed in hope, dreams goals, and expectations for 2021. Let's all pray COVID vanishes while remembering what we learned when the health of our world shook. Our New Year as writers promises growth and change. The best way we can be prepared is to arm ourselves with solid writing habits and soul care that nourishes the soul.

JANUARY WRITING TIPS

1. Understand priorities and stick by them. Life is filled with interruptions, and only we can decide which distractions are important and which ones are merely annoyances.
2. Establish a budget for conferences, marketing, promotion, how-to books, reading, electronics, business expenses, and other miscellaneous expenditures.
3. Calendar due dates for writing projects ahead of time. If a manuscript is on spec, establish a deadline to finish and stick to it.
4. Determine social media goals: learn a new platform and work smarter on new ones
5. Analyze the many blogs available for the writer and the world of publishing. Select and follow those that are consistency professional with respected authors and information.
6. Evaluate current writing groups, online and live. Which one(s) allow us to learn and give back to others?
7. Create an "Idea" folder for every project. Writing ideas come from the world around us—from blogs to articles to book projects.
8. Update author bios and include various lengths.
9. Take an honest look at our professional photo. Is it time for a retake?

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JANUARY SOUL CARE

1. Develop a mission statement that puts God first. We seek Him first thing in the morning before we place our fingers on the keyboard.
2. Understand writing is a calling, not to be worshiped. We have one God who gave us a special gift. Take the gift away, and do you still have a relationship with God?
3. Love others above ourselves. Sometimes we writers have to humble ourselves and love the reader who hates our work, the agent or editor who gives tough feedback, or the publishing industry that prefers a different style.
4. Guard our faith. The pressures of money and fame are tempting. God is our number One target audience, our perfect Reader, and our relentless Cheerleader.
5. Reserve time in our busy lives to consult and listen to God's voice. Prayer is the best communication device we will ever need.
6. Eat a healthy diet and exercise. We can't write and give our best when our bodies are deficient.
7. Pay it forward. Whatever we learn in the publishing and social media world, pass it on to a serious writer.
8. Journal our hopes, dreams, and thoughts. How does God respond?
9. Be open to God in all parts of our lives.

When we choose optimism and pray for God's blessings, He will show us the right way to move forward in our writing and personal lives.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As co-directors of the Blue Ridge Mountains Christian Writers Conference and the Mountainside Publishing Retreats, DiAnn Mills & Edie Melson bring more to the holiday season than their combined half-century of writing expertise. They both exhibit a proven Passion to equip writers today. Individually and together, they have encouraged thousands of writers as they stay true to the call of "changing the world one writer at a time."



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